European Community Commentary

A Supplement to *Trade and Industry* Number 11 May 1974

The EEC Preliminary Programme for Consumer Information and Protection

Putting a human face on the Community

The aims

The EEC Preliminary Programme for Consumer Information and Protection, which the Commission submitted to the Council last December, and on which the Council is scheduled to reach a decision by 1 July 1974, is a sign of the Community's increasing concern to place more emphasis on the role and requirements of the individual. 'The time has now come', says the Commission in the introductory section of the Programme, 'to proclaim and implement a policy which stresses the human side of the Community's development and draws together a number of fields of action which have not always been recognised as being of immediate application to day-to-day life.' In the light of the 'growing emphasis on the quality of life in the context of the aims of the Common Market', the Commission also thinks that the consumer's point of view will in future have to be taken more into account in the actual formulation of Community policies in general: in other words, it is time for the consumer to be regarded not only as a purchaser of goods and services, but also as a person 'concerned, in his capacity as a consumer, with the wider facets of social and environmental impact'.

The Preliminary Programme sets out the Commission's proposals for ensuring both that the consumer plays a more positive role in Community affairs, and that his basic rights are protected in every Member State. These rights are expressed as:

1 the right to be safeguarded against dangers to health and safety and the right to redress (consumer protection and assistance);
2 the right to be adequately informed and instructed (consumer information and education);
3 the right to be heard (consumer representation).

In accordance with Community procedure, the Programme has been sent to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, whose views will be taken into account by the Council when it considers the Programme.

Administrative machinery

Throughout 1973 the Commission has been setting up the administrative and consultative infrastructure needed to implement action in the consumer-protection field. An Environment and Consumer Protection Service was established in the Commission early in the year, reporting directly to Signor Scarascia-Mugnozza, the responsible Commissioner. In September, the Commission set up a Consumer Consultative Committee to replace the somewhat inadequate Contact Committee of Consumers of the European Community wound up in 1972 after 10 years' existence. The new Committee, which is made up of 15 representatives of consumer associations, trades unions and co-operative and family organisations, and 10 individual members selected on account of their experience in consumer affairs, met for the first time in November. The UK members are Mr. A. Dumont (Vice-Chairman, Consumers' Association), Mr. J. M. Wood (Chief Executive, Co-operative Union) and Mrs. Chloe Davis (Chairman, Consumer Affairs Group, National Organisations of the National Council for Social Service).*

European Commissioner Carlo Scarascia-Mugnozza, whose responsibilities include consumer affairs.

The Programme's scope

In the text of the Programme the areas which a Community consumer policy would encompass, and the particular needs within these areas which the policy would have to meet, are outlined under four heads: consumer protection, consumer assistance, consumer information and consumer representation. The Commission has not, however, attempted to put forward an action programme covering the entire sweep of problems set out under these heads; it has preferred to concentrate on a 'limited number of objectives which require implementation, while acting by way of guidance, co-operation and co-ordination in the remainder'. The objectives and priorities have been restricted 'so as to make them capable of practical achievement and to provide a firm base from which to move forward in later phases', and are 'only the beginning of what needs to be done'. They are recommended for implementation over the next three years, and the Commission 'reserves the right to examine other proposals in due course, or, in the light of circumstances, to present further proposals'.

The items proposed for priority action are reproduced below.

1. Matters of health and safety

Objectives:

* To preserve the health and safety of consumers by requiring adequate precautions in the production and distribution of goods, particularly

* For a complete list of Committee members see *European Community Commentary*, January 1974, p. 11.

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foodstuffs, and the use of pesticides, fertilisers and the like.
* To lay down minimum standards, where necessary, as to the composition of foodstuffs.
* To prescribe safety criteria for products which include substances that may have inherent toxic, inflammable, explosive or corrosive properties.

Method:
* To continue to study the results of ongoing research into the many substances used in connection with the matters set out above.
* To have under regular review and to amend, where necessary, existing Community measures in this field, and to make proposals where appropriate.
* To apply the principle of positive lists of accepted substances in such matters, for example, as food additives.
* To encourage the widening application of systems of authorisation of new products in sensitive areas such as food and pharmaceutical products before their sale is permitted, and to study the possibilities for Community action in this regard.

2. Unfair and deceptive commercial practices

(a) General

Objectives:
* To determine possible Community action in eliminating those commercial practices in the supply of goods or services which are unfair to or are intended to deceive the consumer, for example the supply of unsolicited goods and certain forms of door-to-door selling and unfair contracts.
* To provide means for preventing the spread within the Community of commercial practices for the supply of goods or services which are condemned within some individual Member States as being contrary to the interest of consumers.†

Method:
* To co-ordinate studies which have already been made in this field and to supplement them with supplementary information from the Member States, consumer organisations and other sources.
* To make proposals, if necessary, to give effect to the declared objectives.

(b) Misleading advertising

Objectives:
* To lay down criteria for judging the extent to which advertisements may be considered to be deceptive or misleading.
* To provide safeguards for the consumer within the Community against exploitation by deceptive or misleading advertising.
* To prevent the spread of such advertising across frontiers and to work with Member States to achieve effective methods of putting a speedy end to misleading advertising compaigns.
* To provide guidance in methods of monitoring and control.

Note: The above objectives for consumer protection move in parallel with those within the law of unfair competition for the protection of one trader against another.

Method:
* To build upon the work done and information compiled by the Council of Europe, OECD and other bodies and to complete a study on the objectives set out above.
* To proceed with the work being done in connection with the harmonisation of the laws on unfair competition.
* To co-operate with Member States in elaborating an effective control system within the Common Market.
* To make the appropriate proposals to the Council.

(c) Hire-purchase and consumer credit

Objectives:
* To ensure that the consumer is not deceived or misled concerning the nature of agreements being entered into for hire-purchase or credit facilities or as to the obligations being incurred.
* To prevent false or misleading advertisements and offers by requiring full disclosure of the terms offered, in particular the full cost of credit, including true rate of interest.
* To provide safeguards for the retention of goods bought by consumers under hire-purchase agreements.
* To study the wide implications of the credit field with a view to preventing the exploitation of consumers.

Method:
* To complete studies already being made by the Commission and to prepare a first draft Directive or other appropriate measure for submission to the Council.

3. Complaint, advice and redress

Objectives:
* To provide within the Member States of the Community a basis for redress for consumers which is fair, uncomplicated and inexpensive so that persons with justified complaints are not cheated or deprived of remedies.
* To lay down the framework throughout the Community of a complaint and advice service, whereby consumers may have a proper channel for legitimate complaints about goods or services, particularly those which cross frontiers, and a means of obtaining advice as to how they may proceed in cases of difficulty.

Method:
* To collate within a Community context the studies already made in this field by OECD, the Council of Europe, consumer organisations and other bodies, bringing them up to date by supplementary studies.
* To explore the possibilities of submitting a proposal for principles which ensure swift, inexpensive and effective dealing with consumer complaints by the Courts.
* To consult with Members States, consumer and other organisations on the possibilities and extent to which redress may be obtained by arbitration methods outside the Courts or how advice may be given.
* To consult with Member States, consumer and other organisations on the different kinds of complaint and advice service, particularly as to classification of types of complaint and the exchange of information throughout the Community between bodies already doing this work.
* To make appropriate proposals for the Council.

4. Consumer information and education

(a) Labelling

Objectives:
* To give clear, unambiguous, easily readable and complete information about products.
* To provide recommendations which should apply in a general way (horizontally) to be taken into consideration (and given formal acknowledgment in the appropriate preamble) in the preparation of all specific (vertical) regulations or Directives which have a consumer connotation.
* Insofar as foodstuffs are concerned, to state the nature and exact composition of the product, its weight or volume, the identity of the person selling it or being otherwise responsible and, if necessary, the requirements for satisfactory conservation. Variations on these points would be subjects of study for non-food products, with additional items such as unit pricing and unit weight being common to both.

Method:
* To follow through the study already in hand by the Commission on the labelling of foodstuffs. Interested parties, including consumers and the Member States, will be consulted on the need for a draft Directive. Such consultation will be close and continuous. Research will be made into consumer understanding of labels. After these consultations and research the Commission will submit a proposal to the Council.
* To make proposals to the Council, where appropriate, regarding products other than foodstuffs.

(b) Prices

Objectives:
* To provide consumers with information on price differences at Community level to help them make the best use of their disposable income.
* To encourage consumers to make use of price comparison information given in Member States at local level.
* To explain Community policies affecting prices, particularly in relation to agriculture and competition, in the fight against inflation.

Method:
* To make the fullest use of the Commission's information services and to co-operate with all bodies, including consumer organisations, at national and local level.
* To institute and develop continuing price studies and research at Community level as well as co-operating in such studies being made within the Community.

(c) Consumer information and education generally

Objectives:
* To define the categories of consumer information which are most needed within the Community in terms of the supply of goods and services and, within those definitions, to work towards harmonisation of action taken by individual Member States.
* To provide an increasing amount and range of information on consumer matters being dealt with by the Community and to explain to consumers in clear and simple terms the effect of those Community measures which affect them in relation to the supply of goods and services.
* To encourage the efforts of all those organisations within the Community who are already engaged on the work, in co-operation with the Member States.
* To encourage through the educational programmes within the Member States the spread of

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† Certain practices are already subject to legislation within the context of unfair competition between one trader and another.

Publications on the European Communities

Listed below are official publications on European Communities' matters issued during the period 1 November 1973-31 March 1974. All can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Orders, quoting the Standard Book Number (which in the list is given in brackets after each title), should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. The price inclusive of postage is given in parenthesis at the end of each reference.

I Parliamentary publications

House of Commons Papers 121-xv. Select Committee on European Community Secondary Legislation. Minutes of Evidence. 23 July 1973. (0 10 293173 9). (pp. 272–293). 26½p (29½p).

House of Commons Paper 463. Second Report from the Select Committee on European Community Secondary Legislation.

I Report. (0 10 293873 3). 44 pp. 31½p (35½p).

II Minutes of Evidence and an Appendix. (0 10 294573 X). 306 pp. £2.40 (£2.51).

Cmnd. 5457. European Communities Miscellaneous No. 32 (1973). Association Agreement concerning the Accession of Mauritius to the Convention of Association between the European Economic Community and the African and Malagasy States Associated with that Community. Port Louis, 12 May 1972. (The Agreement entered into force 1 June 1973.) (0 10 154570 3). 8 pp. 8p (11p).

Cmnd. 5472. European Communities Miscellaneous No. 37 (1973). Agreement between the Member States of the ECSC and the ECSC of the one part, and the Republic of Finland of the other part, with Final Act. Brussels, 5 October 1973, and related Exchange of Letters. (0 10 154720 X). 26 pp. 18½p (21½p).

Cmnd. 5480. European Communities Miscellaneous No. 34 (1973). Protocol relating to the Agreement on Trade and Technical Co-operation between the EEC and the Member States of the one part, and the Lebanese Republic of the other part. Brussels, 16 May 1973 (with related documents). (The Protocol is being implemented provisionally with effect from 16 May 1973.) (0 10 154800 1). 8 pp. 8p (11p).

Cmnd. 5516. Miscellaneous No. 42 (1973). Political Co-operation by the Member States of the European Communities. The European Identity. (Approved by the Foreign Ministers of the Nine Member States of the European Communities and published on the occasion of the European Summit Meeting in Copenhagen on 14 December 1973.) (0 10 155160 6). 6 pp. 8p (11p).

Cmnd. 5558. European Communities No. 4 (1974). Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on Trade in Cotton Textiles (with Exchanges of Letters). Brussels, 18 April 1973. (The Agreement entered into force on 9 June 1973.) (0 10 155580 6). 24 pp. 17p (20p).

Statutory instruments:

SI 2065. Import Duties (Quota relief) (Paper, Paperboard and Printed Products) Order 1973. (0 11 032065 4). 13p (16p).

SI 2066. Import Duties (Quota relief) (Phosphorus and Wood Pulp) Order 1973. (0 11 032066 2). 3p (6p).

SI 2069. Commonwealth Preference (Standstill Area) Regulations 1973. (0 11 032069 7). 8p (11p).

SI 2218 Import Duties (Developing countries (No. 3)) Order 1973. (0 11 032218 5). 14p (17p).

II Non-Parliamentary publications

National Economic Development Office:

Chemicals Manpower in Europe. Report of a comparative study of industrial relations and manpower productivity in the UK, France, Germany and Holland. (0 11 700541 X). 76 pp. 70p (80p).

The Distributive Trades in the Common Market. A report prepared for the Common Market Working Group of the Distributive Trades Economic Development Committee. September 1973. (0 11 700540 1). 140 pp. £1.00 (£1.20).

HM Customs and Excise Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 1974 Edition. (Sheets only.)

(0 11 260203 7). £5.50 (£5.82).
(0 11 260076 X). Binder I. £1.20.
(0 11 260202 9). Binder II. £1.20.

Subscription to the amendment service: £3 per annum.

Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom. December 1973 (with totals). (0 11 723140 1). 528 pp. £1.85 (£2.12).

International Regulations concerning the carriage of goods by rail (RID). Amendment No. 1 to the 1973 Edition. (The amendments in this publication apply to the 1973 Edition of RID, which included amendments entering into force on 1 July 1973. Applicable as from 1 January 1974.) (0 11 550317 X). 40 pp. 29p (33p).

Companies (Disclosure of Directors' Nationalities) Exemption Order 1974. (0 11 511075 5). 2 pp. 3p (6p).

Statutory Publications Office:

Secondary Legislation of the European Communities: Subject Editions, Legislation in force on 31 December 1972.

Vol. 1 Budgetary Policy. (0 11 330441 2). 68 pp. 63p (70p).
Vol. 2 Commercial Policy. (0 11 330442 0). 412 pp. £3.20 (£3.47).
Vol. 3 Community Institutions. (0 11 330443 9). 286 pp. £2.40 (£2.58).
Vol. 4 Competition. (0 11 330444 7). 150 pp. £1.37½ (£1.49).
Vol. 5 Customs Questions. (0 11 330445 5). 410 pp. £3.79 (£4.06).
Vol. 6 Economic and Financial Affairs. (0 11 330446 3). 96 pp. 76p (84½p).
Vol. 7 Energy Policy. (0 11 330447 1). 62 pp. 58p (65p).
Vol. 8 Euratom. (0 11 330448 X). 138 pp. £1.15 (£1.28).
Vol. 9 Right of Establishment. (0 11 330449 8). 172 pp. £1.60 (£1.73).
Vol. 10 Social Affairs. (0 11 330450 1). 335 pp. £2.75 (£2.97).
Vol. 11 Taxation. (0 11 330451 X). 40 pp. 34p (39½p).
Vol. 12 Technical Standards. (0 11 330452 8). 308 pp. £2.85 (£3.07).
Vol. 13 Transport. (0 11 330453 6). 268 pp. £2.46 (£2.64).
Vol. 14 Agricultural Finance. (0 11 330454 4). 146 pp. £1.33 (£1.44).
Vol. 15 Agricultural Structure and Statistics. (0 11 330455 2). 158 pp. £1.55 (£1.68).
Vol. 16 Agriculture – Licences, Levies, Refunds, etc. (0 11 330456 0). 264 pp. £2.45 (£2.63).
Vol. 17 Agriculture – General Matters. (0 11 330457 9). 52 pp. 50p (55½p).
Vol. 18 Animal Feeding Stuffs. (0 11 330458 7). 66 pp. 59½p (66½p).
Vol. 19 Animal Health. (0 11 330459 5). 148 pp. £1.37 (£1.48).
Vol. 20 Beef and Veal. (0 11 330460 9). 148 pp. £1.36 (£1.47).
Vol. 21 Cereals. (0 11 330461 7). 329 pp. £3.20 (£3.47).
Vol. 22 Certain Processed Agricultural Products. (0 11 330462 5). 108 pp. £1.00 (£1.10).
Vol. 23 Eggs and Albumens. (0 11 330463 3). 104 pp. 97p (£1.07).
Vol. 24 Fisheries. (0 11 330464 1). 140 pp. £1.30 (£1.41).
Vol. 25 Flax and Hemp. (0 11 330465 X). 32 pp. 30p (35½p).
Vol. 26 Food Standards. (0 11 330466 8). 72 pp. 67p (74p).
Vol. 27 Forestry. (0 11 330467 6). 34 pp. 32p (37½p).
Vol. 28 Fruit and Vegetables. (0 11 330468 4). 336 pp. £2.80 (£3.02).

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Publications on the Community

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Vol. 29 Fruit and Vegetables, Processed. (0 11 330469 2). 63 pp. 57p (62½p).
Vol. 30 Hops. (0 11 330470 6). 19 pp. 22p (27½p).
Vol. 31 Live Plants and Flowers. (0 11 330471 4). 44 pp. 42p (47½p).
Vol. 32 Milk and Milk Products. (0 11 330472 2). 366 pp. £3.00 (£3.27).
Vol. 33 Oils and Fats. (0 11 330473 0). 288 pp. £2.40 (£2.62).
Vol. 34 Pigmeat. (0 11 330474 9). 136 pp. £1.15 (£1.28).
Vol. 35 Plant Health. (0 11 330475 7). 9 pp. 15p (19p).
Vol. 36 Poultrymeat. (0 11 330476 5). 60 pp. 54p (61p).
Vol. 37 Rice. (0 11 330477 3). 176 pp. £1.50 (£1.68).
Vol. 38 Seeds and Propagating Material. (0 11 330478 1). 205 pp. £1.70 (£1.88).
Vol. 39 Sugar. (0 11 330479 X). 241 pp. £2.00 (£2.18).
Vol. 40 Tobacco. (0 11 330480 3). 54 pp. 50p (57p).
Vol. 41 Wine. (0 11 330481 1). 320 pp. £2.65 (£2.87).
Vol. 42 Subject Index and Numerical List. (0 11 330482 X). 82 pp. £1.20 (£1.28).

III Publications sold but not published by HMSO

Commission of the European Communities

Comparative Tables of the Social Security Systems relating to employees in the three new Member States of the European Communities: Denmark – Ireland – United Kingdom. Situation on 1 July 1972. (0 11 933582 4). 60 pp. 35p (40½p).
Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 10/73. For a Community policy on Education. (0 11 933577 8). 62 pp. 23p (28½p).
Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 11/73. Proposal for a Sixth Council Directive on the harmonisation of Member States concerning turnover taxes. Common system of value added tax: Uniform basis of assessment. (0 11 933593 X). 64 pp. 23p (28½p).
Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 12/73. Report from the Commission to the Council on the adjustment of short-term monetary support arrangements and the conditions for progressive pooling of reserves. (0 11 933576 X). 18 pp. 12p. (16p).
Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 13/73. Draft Convention on the International Merger of Sociétés Anonymes. Report on the Draft. (Submitted to the Council by the Commission on 29 June 1973.) (0 11 933722 3). 124 pp. 35p (43½p).
Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 17/73. Improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy. (0 11 933764 9). 24 pp. 12p (16p).
Special Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities, January 1974. Directory of the Commission of the European Communities. (0 11 933823 8). 72 pp. 35p (40½p).
Studies:
Competition Series 1971. No. 14. Approximation of Legislation Series. Suretyship in the law of the Member States of the European Communities. (0 11 933809 2). 120 pp. £2.31 (£2.41).
Competition Series 1972. No. 19. Approximation of Legislation Series. Effects of Price and Income on the Consumption of Beverages in Member States of the Community. (French only.) (0 11 933651 0). 281 pp. £1.73 (£1.91).
Industry Series. No. 7. Investigation on the Development of Software. Report of the Synthesis. (0 11 933790 8). 24 pp. £1.16 (£1.20).
Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Communities. English Edition. Special Edition 1966-1972. December 1973. (0 11 933763 0). 132 pp. 85p (95p). (Note: Customers who have purchased a complete set of Special Editions 1952-1972 should apply for this supplement free of charge.)
Seventh General Report on the Activities of the European Communities in 1973. (Joint publication of ECSC, EEC and EAEC.) (0 11 933787 8). 556 pp. £2.31 (£2.53).
Prospects of Primary Energy Demand in the Community (1975-1980-1985). (0 11 933835 1). 122 pp. £1.16 (£1.24).
List of Authorised Customs Offices for Community Transit Operations (Amendment No. 1. July 1973). (0 11 933839 4). 612 pp. Loose-leaf in binder £8.09 (£8.42).
Medium-term Prospects and Guidelines in the Community Gas Sector. (0 11 933846 7). 92 pp + 2 insets. £1.16 (£1.23).
Statement on the Activities of Vocational Guidance and the Manpower Services of the Member States of the Community (in French). (0 11 933677 4). 216 pp. £1.16 (£1.29).

Statistical Office of the European Communities

Statistical Studies and Surveys:
No. 2 (1972). (0 11 933750 9). 260 pp. £1.44 (£1.66).
No. 3 (1972). (0 11 933697 9). 128 pp. £1.44 (£1.54).
National Accounts, Agregates 1951-1972. (0 11 933850 5). 80 pp. 63p (70p).
Energy Statistics: Supplement. Development of coal prices in the Community Countries 1955-1970. Nos. 1-2. 1973. (0 11 933767 3). 144 pp. £1.25 (£1.38).

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OECD Economic Surveys – France. February 1974. (92 64 11164 6). 82 pp + 2 folded inserts. 50p (55½p).

Consumer affairs

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consumer education within schools, universities and further-education establishments.

Method:

* To collate and analyse the growing number of studies already made in the field of consumer information and to prepare therefrom a basic document for guidance within the Community.
* To assist in the development of the work done by comparative-testing organisations within the Community and to study further the standardisation of criteria and methods of testing.
* To accelerate and expand the production and dissemination of informative material on consumer questions and to co-operate closely with Member States and consumer and other organisations in this regard.
* To use fully the resources of mass media communication through whatever channels may be provided and to encourage the co-ordination of TV, press, radio, cinema and other presentation of programmes and articles on consumer topics.
* To instigate and encourage seminars, colloquia and exhibitions on general and specific consumer topics.
* To conduct and participate in surveys by questionnaire or other methods, if necessary in co-operation with Member States, consumer and other organisations, into consumer needs and behaviour within the Community.
* To publish an annual report on steps taken within the Community in the consumer interest, whether by way of legislation, information, guidance or co-ordinating action.

5. Consumer representation

Objectives:

* To ensure that there is proper consultation between the Community and consumers, particularly with regard to the preparation of measures affecting the latter, in due time for their views to be taken into account.
* To seek to secure appropriate consultative channels and procedures in the Member States whereby consumers will have comparable opportunities to state their views in decision-making processes which affect them in the provision of goods and services, and the contracts and trading methods connected therewith.

Method:

* To give every assistance to the Consumers' Consultative Committee and to encourage widely based consultation with all organisations and persons able to contribute in consumer information and protection.
* To support the exchange of information between Member States as to the most appropriate form of consumer representation at various levels of action.
* To help consumers' organisations in co-ordinating efforts to obtain consumer representation where it is needed.

EEC – your questions answered

How can I find out what import duty is to be paid on UK exports to the Six during the transitional period? Where can I find details of intra-Community trade in plastics? And information on the Yaoundé Convention? . . . Any company trading with other Member States of the EEC soon realises how difficult life can become without a fair knowledge of the Community's processes and procedures. And these are the types of question to which answers are needed.

If you are encountering difficulty in obtaining answers, there is a Government organisation to which you can turn for help. A telephone call to the EEC Information Unit will result either in an immediate answer to your inquiry or a reference to a source from which help can be obtained. The questions instanced above were in fact taken from the many on which the Unit's assistance was sought last month. The Unit's replies are given below.

An article describing the function and scope of the EEC Information Unit appears overleaf.

Q. I export a variety of goods to the original Six Member States of the EEC. Is there a convenient way of finding out what import duty is to be paid on UK exports to the Six for any product in any year during the transitional period that precedes the total abolition of duties?

A. Yes. The Commission have published in tabular form the rates of Customs duty applicable on goods imported from the UK, Denmark and the Republic of Ireland into the original Six. The tables indicate the duty applicable for any product during any phase of the transition to duty-free trade between 1 January 1973 and the final abolition of duties on 1 July 1977 (1 January 1978 for certain agricultural products). Annexed to these tables are lists of products imported from new Member States on which CCT duties are totally or partially suspended.

This publication appears in the *C Series* of the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, Volume 17, No. C36, 29 March 1974, which can be obtained from HMSO, price £1.25.

Q. My company manufactures plastics. Where can I find details of intra-Community trade in these materials?

A. The six original Member States of the EEC classify their foreign trade statistics according to a harmonised nomenclature known as NIMEXE*. Details of exports and imports by commodity and origin/destination, for each of the original Member States and for the original Community as a whole, are published annually by the Statistical Office of the European Communities in a series of analytical tables. The latest series of analytical tables (in French/German) incorporate the statistics for 1972. The volume of interest to you is that dealing with plastics, rubber and leather materials. It is available from HMSO (price £2.08), or can be consulted at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

* An explanation of the relationship between the UK trade statistics and NIMEXE was published in the July 1973 issue of *European Community Commentary*.

An updated version of the NIMEXE classification is published each year. Details of this publication, and a full list of the analytical tables referred to above are given below.

Nomenclature of Goods for External Trade Statistics of the Community and Statistics of Trade between Member States (NIMEXE), 1973, English (ISBN 0 11 932456 3), 637 pp., £7.87 (£8.14 by post).

Analytical Tables (NIMEXE), 1972/1-XII. French/German volumes as follows:

A. Ch. 1-24 Live Animals and Animal and Vegetable Products; Fats and Oils; Foodstuffs, Beverages and Tobacco. (0 11 933705 3). 374 pp. £2.50 (£2.77).

B. Ch. 25-27 Mineral Products (0 11 933706 1). 86 pp. £1.25 (£1.33).

C. Ch. 28-38 Products of the Chemical and Allied Industries. (0 11 933707 X). 396 pp. £2.50 (£2.77).

D. Ch. 39-43 Plastics, Rubber, Rawhides and Skins, Leather, Furskins and Articles thereof; Saddlery and Harness; Morocco Leather Goods, Travel Goods. (0 11 933708 8). 172 pp. £2.08 (£2.26).

E. Ch. 44-49 Wood, Cork Paper, Paperboard and Articles thereof; Manufactures of Plaiting Materials and Basketware. (0 11 933709 6). 148 pp. £1.66 (£1.79).

F. Ch. 50-67 Textiles and Textile Articles; Shoes, Headgear, Umbrellas and Sunshades. (0 11 933710 X). 466 pp. £2.50 (£2.77).

G. Ch. 68-72 Articles of Stone, of Plaster, of Cement; Ceramics; Glass and Glassware; Pearls, Precious Stones, Jewellery, Coins. (0 11 933711 8). 156 pp. £1.66 (£1.79).

H. Ch. 73 Iron and Steel. (0 11 933712 6). 222 pp. £2.08 (£2.26).

I. Ch. 74-83 Base Metals (Except Iron and Steel) and Articles thereof. (0 11 933713 4). 182 pp. £2.08 (£2.26).

J. Ch. 84-85 Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrotechnical Apparatus. (0 11 933714 2). 602 pp. £2.50 (£2.77).

K. Ch. 86-89 Means of Transportation. (0 11 933715 0). 122 pp. £1.25 (£1.35).

L. Ch. 90-99 Optical, Photographic, Cinematographic and Medical Instruments, Apparatus and Appliances; Precision Instruments; Clocks and Watches; Musical Instruments; Sound Recorders and Reproducers; Arms and Ammunitions; Miscellaneous Articles. (0 11 933716 9). 280 pp. £2.08 (£2.30).

Less detailed information on trade by commodity and direction, classified according to the SITC five-digit code, and also available from HMSO, is published by the OECD:

OECD Trade by Commodities, Series C (four volumes). (92 64 01153 6). £5.70.

Q. Where can I obtain details of the Yaoundé association between the European Economic Community and the African States and Madagascar?

A. The full text of the Yaoundé Convention, together with related instruments defining the concept of 'originating products', are among the Acts contained in the first volume of the *Special Edition (Second Series)* of the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, entitled External Relations (Part 2), which is available from HMSO.

Following the first series of Special Editions which contained the authentic English texts of binding Acts of general application throughout the Community, the authentic English-language texts of certain other Acts adopted and published by the Institutions of the Member States prior to Accession are now published in this second series. The series will consist of the 10 volumes listed on page 7. Volumes I and IX are currently available and their price and international standard book number are included in the list. Details of the remaining volumes will be published in a later issue of *European Community Commentary*.

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Changing role of the EEC Information Unit

by R. F. Mayes, Information Division, Department of Industry

Not quite as expected

The EEC Information Unit has now been in business for nearly three years. When the Unit was being created from the old EFTA Information Centre it was difficult to foresee what role it would play once the UK joined the Community. But there were some fairly confident expectations – many of which have proved wrong.

Surprisingly enough the Unit now receives far more inquiries about EFTA matters than when the UK was itself a member of the Association. Many of these concern the agreements between the enlarged Community and EFTA countries and the very complicated documentation required by exporters.

Again we expected that the great majority of the Unit's calls would at any rate be about trade with Europe. But in practice many of them are about countries outside Europe where, because of association arrangements, loss of Commonwealth preference and other matters, trading conditions have changed already or will do so in the future. As a result these inquiries include particularly difficult ones about trade arrangements between third countries. Some of these extra-European questions from businessmen trying to plan ahead have also proved to be the most frustrating since, in many cases, no answer can yet be given. Again unexpected were the inquiries from importers with problems resulting from UK membership.

The Unit has always attracted EEC questions outside the trade and industry range of responsibilities but, with the creation of EEC machinery in other Departments and the expansion of the Commission's own information service in London, it was expected that these would decline rapidly. This has not happened. Even now, such inquiries make up a very high proportion – approximately one third of the total.

One of the reasons is that regular and satisfied customers tend to bring all their EEC problems to the Unit. Our policy is to help with all inquiries, even if only by finding the right contact inside the Government machine or outside. Even at this level the service can save a lot of time for businessmen.

A more versatile role

If the subject range has been greater than expected so too has the amount of specialised knowledge the Unit's staff have had to acquire. The Unit is always described as the general inquiry point on EEC matters and its staff are scrupulous in consulting the experts and referring calls where necessary. But the complexity of the inquiries and the extent to which a single business problem can have different aspects bringing in several administrative Divisions – or, quite frequently, two or more Government Departments – have meant that staff need to delve quite deeply into some highly specialised areas in order to help. And of course their inclination is to pursue the most baffling problems to a satisfactory solution.

Since 12 July 1971, the day it began work, the EEC Information Unit has dealt with well over 39,000 inquiries. But figures in themselves do not mean very much. There was a decline this year, but this was due largely to the power crisis and the three day week. Numbers are now rising again and the trend towards more complex inquiries is continuing.

Many businessmen have expressed their appreciation of the speed and helpfulness of the staff and their ability to discuss difficult problems. The status of many callers and the fact that the same ones keep coming back also show that the Unit is providing a useful service.

In the early days questions asked of the Unit tended to be polarised around certain specific problems. Today, however, the range is much wider.

Questions about the tariff treatment of goods imported from the Yaoundé associates such as Niger, Senegal and the Ivory Coast are currently prominent, origin and consignment conditions proving the source of most problems. On a more general basis traders are still getting into difficulties with customs procedures and export documentation. A blitz on these matters of the kind that Britain has sparked off in the Community is essential if the customs union is to work efficiently and free movement of goods achieved.

Problems firms have experienced in isolating up-to-date statistical information to assist with forward planning have been reflected in a high level of calls to the Unit. There has also been a surge of calls concerning the advertisement of public works contracts in the Communites' *Official Journal*.

Other topical questions include the options presented by compensatory levy, the value of the unit of account and the respective responsibilities of Government Departments for legislative proposals in the field of eliminating technical barriers to trade.

The EEC Information Unit works closely with specialist Divisions in the Department of Industry and the Department of Trade in particular; and remains ready to help guide businessmen in a wider field where necessary. Its telephone and postal address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Tel: 222 7877, Ext. 5479/5480/5377/3579.

CEN Working Group on safety of toys

Continuing its work on a European Standard for toys (which will, it is expected, be used as the basis for an EEC Directive), the CEN Working Group on safety of toys (CEN/WG 52) met recently in London. Seen above at a reception given for delegates are (left to right): Mr. D. Day, leader of the UK delegation; M. Baugue, French chairman of the Working Group; Miss Mary George, chairman of the BSI's Consumer Standards Advisory Committee; Mr. G. B. R. Feilden, Director-General of the BSI; Mr. Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Affairs; and Mr. L. D. Britain, honorary Vice-President of the British Toy Manufacturers Association.

The Community's Business Co-operation Centre

Community firms seek British business partners

The requests for business partners published below were submitted recently to the Business Co-operation Centre in Brussels by firms seeking its aid.

The Commission of the European Communities set up the Centre last year to encourage co-operation between firms in different Member States wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the Community's markets.

The Centre defines 'co-operation' as the pooling of one or more activities of the partner firms; for example, in research and development (joint research, exchange of research results and know-how), supplies (joint buying, mutual provision of primary products), production (specialisation, joint production, standardisation), marketing and sales (joint market research, joint trademarks, pooling or reciprocal use of sales networks) and management (exchange of management know-how, joint use of management facilities). The ventures may involve financial links, and mergers and amalgamations and the establishment of joint subsidiaries or holding companies also therefore fall within the Centre's terms of reference. Excluded are business links which are purely temporary: for example, the Centre does not get involved in finding suppliers, buyers or subcontractors, or in aiding firms offering or looking for commercial agencies.

A firm seeking the Centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. Armed with this information, the Centre will then search its files for a suitable partner, and, if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate with no names mentioned a summary of the firm's requirements to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the Community.

It is as one of the Centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation below. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the Centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, 15-17 rue Archimède, B-1040 Brussels. The Centre makes no charge for its services. All inquiries are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties.

Reference BRE/2124/342
Belgian manufacturer of switchboards and switchgear for electrical, electronic and telephone equipment (for sale direct to the market or on a jobbing basis); also agent for a British and a Swedish manufacturer; turnover BF32 million; 30 employees; very good profitability; modern (1971) premises covering 2,000 m²; wishes to integrate with British, German or French partner of larger size and similar or complementary production.
Languages: French, Dutch, English.

Reference BRE/1588/839
Belgian data-processing and business-management consultancy, providing range of services upstream of computer (organisation, management, etc.), at computer level (choice of equipment, analysis and programming, training) and downstream of computer (use of data processing for decision-making purposes); annual turnover BF60 million; seeks British, Dutch, Danish and Italian associates to pool resources (know-how, marketing, etc); co-operation in the form of integration in a French-law economic interests group which already includes Belgian, French and Irish service firms.
Languages: English, Dutch, French.

Reference BRE/1262/72
French firm; international hauliers and forwarding agents offering skilful staff for quick customs clearance of any kind of goods; storage, warehousing and distribution throughout France; important fleet of trailers and units; operating centres in Rotterdam – Antwerp; turnover FF48 million; seeks a similar firm in UK for setting up a groupage service from Paris area to the UK (preferably Birmingham or the Midlands area) and vice versa.
Languages: French, English.

Reference BRE/965/316
French metal-working firm; turnover FF20 million; with department producing furniture for large establishments; seeks co-operation with a British, German or Italian firm (100–500 employees), engaged in the same activity and distributing its products to large establishments in its own country, with a view to the exchange of products and distribution networks.
Languages: French, English.

Reference BRE/1441/61
Well-established renowned German export branch of company with own overseas branches and many activities in Africa; part of company with turnover of DM30 million (programme: building materials, chemicals, hardware, vehicles and equipment, textiles); seeks co-operation with EEC partner, same branch, either for joint purchase activities or for exchange of sales programme.
Languages: German, English, French.

Reference BRE/1270/312
German manufacturer of sanitary and heating installations and home-improvement appliances; own cast-iron foundries, cast-iron and sheet-metal enamelling plants, as well as presses; also engaged in machine-tool industry; turnover in excess of DM100 million; staff of over 1,500; seeks EEC associate(s) in similar or related industries, and of comparable size, with a view to co-operation in the marketing and sales fields; financial links desired.
Languages: German, English, French.

Reference BRE/1157/271
German manufacturer of special and all-purpose fertilisers (both organic and mixed organic/inorganic), such as chemo-technical products based on organic waste of animal and vegetable origin; turnover DM11 million; staff of 48; seeks co-operation in the fields of production, marketing (inter-company sales) and buying (inter-company deliveries of intermediate products and joint procurement of raw materials) with similar firms in France, the UK and the Benelux countries; possibility of financial links and joint establishments.
Languages: German, English, French, Italian.

Reference BRE/1299/413
Dutch firm producing and distributing perishable foodstuffs (dairy products); modern equipment; turnover 28 million guilders; 155 employees; outlet mainly in West Holland; seeks bigger EEC associate same branch, with know-how in the field of processing non-animal proteins and fats and interested in selling to Dutch market; for co-operation in research and development, technology and know-how, marketing and sales.
Languages: Dutch, English, French, German.

Your questions answered

continued from page 5

I. External Relations.
Part 1. (0 11 933868 8). 416 pp. £3.15 (£3.37).
Part 2. (0 11 933869 6). 382 pp. £2.71 (£2.93).
II. Agriculture and Food Aid.
III. European Agricultural Guidance and Gurantee Fund.
IV. Transport.
V. Euratom.
VI. Competition.
VII. Institutional Questions.
VIII. European Coal and Steel Community.
IX. Resolutions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Member States. (0 11 933887 4). 68 pp. 42p (47½p).
X. Miscellaneous.

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the Member States of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

An extensive bibliography – 'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community' – which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the Commission of the European Communities.

TABLE 1 **Industrial Production** (Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxem-bourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy[4]	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC[3,4]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.8	0.3	23.5	36.5	0.7	12.6	4.4	18.2	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.5	0.1	9.0	14.0	0.2	4.9	1.7	7.0	36.4	*48.4*	*13.1*
1968	88	88	84	83	90	91	81	96	87	*99*	*74*
1969	97	100	94	94	97	94	91	100	95	*104*	*88*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	106	102	105	99	109	100	103	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	114	106	109	104	116	102	107	*108*	*110*
1973	116	115	123	114		113	124	111	116	*118*	*130*
1972 1st quarter	108	98	111	104	107	103	113	97	105	*103*	*106*
2nd quarter	109	102	112	105	106	104	115	102	107	*107*	*108*
3rd quarter	109	104	115	105	109	102	116	103	107	*109*	*111*
4th quarter	115	108	117	109	114	108	120	106	111	*113*	*116*
1973 1st quarter	116	114	122	113	121	104	122	110	114	*115*	*124*
2nd quarter	114	112	122	114	119	115	123	110	116	*117*	*128*
3rd quarter	113	115	125	113	118	117	125	111	116	*119*	*131*
4th quarter	119	120	124	115		118	127	110	118	*119*	*135*
1974 1st quarter			125							*117*	
1973 January	115	108	122	113		105	122	108	114	*115*	*122*
February	116	116	122	115		104	123	111	115	*116*	*122*
March	117	117	123	112		104	121	112	114	*116*	*127*
April	113	112	119	115		112	123	109	115	*116*	*126*
May	122	114	125	112		114	123	109	116	*117*	*129*
June	108	111	123	115		118	123	110	116	*118*	*129*
July	110	115	126	109		120	122	111	116	*119*	*129*
August	118	115	126	112		114	126	110	116	*119*	*131*
September	110	115	121	118		116	127	111	117	*119*	*132*
October	118	117	125	114		118	127	112	117	*119*	*135*
November	125	125	127	115		117	127	111	118	*120*	*136*
December	114	117	121	117		118	127	106	118	*119*	*134*
1974 January		124	128	113		125	129	99	115	*118*	*134*
February			121			118		102		*117*	*134*
March			127							*116*	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+5.6	+5.5	+0.8	+0.3	−0.8	+3.0	+0.8	−8.1	+0.3	*−1.7*	*−0.1*
On a year earlier	+3.5	+12.6	+2.5	+1.8	+8.3	+14.5	+5.2	−5.5	+4.2	*+1.4*	*+10.6*

[1]Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture.
[2]Mining and manufacturing only.
[3]Excluding Denmark.
[4]Revised figures for Italy from beginning of 1973.
(e) Estimated
Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Prepared by the Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the Statistics Division of Government Departments, this digest is designed to provide industrialists and business executives with invaluable statistics relating to the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It contains a regular series of detailed statistics on a wide range of subjects which include the following: *Labour. Fuel and Power, External Trade, Wages and Prices, Industrial Production, Industrial Materials, Finance.*

Price 63p (*by post* 72½p). Annual Subscription £8.60 including postage, and a copy of the Definitions of items and units employed in the Digest.

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH), Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

TABLE 2 **Unemployment** seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1,2]	Denmark[1,3]	France[2,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Netherlands[2,5]	United Kingdom[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1968	147	163	97	218	88	113	147	95	*69*	*108*
1969	120	129	85	120	86	108	115	94	*69*	*104*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972	123	126	145	166	114	114	235	142	*118*	*119*
1973	130	85	150	199	104	109	239	102	*105*	*107*
1972 1st quarter	114	139	142	143	114	106	207	149	*123*	*119*
2nd quarter	120	140	146	181	114	113	254	147	*120*	*120*
3rd quarter	125	124	148	192	117	121	265	141	*118*	*122*
4th quarter	130	101	145	176	114	117	237	132	*113*	*117*
1973 1st quarter	125	41	140	141	107	107	220	117	*108*	*110*
2nd quarter	127	107	144	187	103	133	263	106	*106*	*108*
3rd quarter	132	100	158	214	106	100	259	99	*105*	*108*
4th quarter	133	97	161	254	102	96	233	86	*104*	*102*
1974 1st quarter				258				96	*115*	
1973 January	125	50	141	131	110	107	202	124	*107*	*111*
February	125	29	139	142	107		217	117	*109*	*108*
March	125	43	139	150	105		239	112	*107*	*110*
April	127	132	143	179	102	133	259	108	*108*	*107*
May	127	83	143	189	102		263	107	*106*	*110*
June	128	105	145	194	105		270	104	*105*	*108*
July	131	107	153	207	105	100	257	102	*103*	*107*
August	131	98	157	216	105		265	99	*103*	*110*
September	134	99	163	219	107		257	95	*108*	*106*
October	137	90	161	237	102	96	248	90	*100*	*106*
November	132	93	159	252	102		235	86	*104*	*104*
December	131	93	162	274	102		217	83	*107*	*96*
1974 January	130	78	164	228	105		222	94	*116*	*105*
February	130	39	164	252	105		233	97	*116*	
March				294				96	*113*	
April								96	*111*	
Rate %	2.3		2.0	2.6		3.1	3.0	2.4	*5.1*	*1.0*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	−3.1	−25.5	+1.3	+1.6	+0.1	−4.2	−9.1	+9.9	*+4.0*	*−5.1*
On a year earlier	+3.4	+19.2	+15.7	+82.9	−5.7	−17.9	+6.6	−14.2	*+4.9*	*−10.7*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1] Insured unemployed. [2] Change of basis during period. [3] Monthly data are weekly averages. [4] Unfilled applications. [5] Registered unemployed.
[6] Based on results of sample survey. [7] Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.
[8] Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others). (e) estimated. Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators',

TABLE 3 **Exports (fob)** Special trade,[1] seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,160	2,580	12,708	24,840	792	10,188	8,340	15,348	82,956	*34,416*	*12,972*
1969	10,068	2,952	15,024	29,052	888	11,724	9,960	17,520	97,200	*37,992*	*15,984*
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,612	4,332	25,777	46,187	1,603	18,576	16,386	24,340	152,813	*49,667*	*28,511*
1973	22,330(e)	6,121	36,115	67,622	2,122	22,024(e)	22,915(e)	30,525	209,774(e)	*71,465*	*36,786* (e)
1972 1st quarter	3,582	1,056	5,913	11,025	369	4,368	3,945	6,044	36,302	*12,045*	*6,675*
2nd quarter	3,821	1,085	6,337	11,472	385	4,487	4,149	6,378	38,114	*11,676*	*6,656*
3rd quarter	3,919	1,055	6,445	11,270	413	4,556	4,025	5,389	37,072	*12,529*	*7,261*
4th quarter	4,290	1,136	7,082	12,420	436	5,165	4,267	6,529	41,325	*13,505*	*7,891*
1973 1st quarter	4,721	1,322	7,630	14,074	467	4,279	5,573	6,865	44,931	*15,692*	*8,266*
2nd quarter	5,273	1,409	8,665	16,106	509	5,170	5,872	7,672	50,676	*16,817*	*8,752*
3rd quarter	6,302	1,729	9,931	18,849	547	6,212	6,123	8,059	57,751	*18,523*	*9,336*
4th quarter	6,034 (e)	1,661	9,889	18,478	599	6,364 (e)	5,347 (e)	7,929	56,416 (e)	*20,433*	*10,432* (e)
1974 1st quarter			10,627 (e)	20,674 (e)				8,317			
1973 January	1,370	396	2,432	4,606	132	1,445	1,759	2,211	14,351	*5,189*	*2,564*
February	1,612	472	2,540	4,776	164	1,603	2,003	2,331	15,501	*5,110*	*3,064*
March	1,739	454	2,658	4,692	171	1,231	1,811	2,323	15,079	*5,393*	*2,638*
April	1,761	419	2,673	5,122	162	1,454	1,793	2,530	15,914	*5,607*	*2,909*
May	1,740	494	2,891	5,550	172	1,685	2,027	2,459	17,018	*5,518*	*2,920*
June	1,772	496	3,101	5,434	175	2,031	2,052	2,683	17,744	*5,692*	*2,923*
July	2,007	593	3,369	6,008	179	2,147	2,069	2,652	19,024	*5,895*	*3,167*
August	2,170	485	3,228	6,456	185	1,966	1,960	2,660	19,110	*5,996*	*2,960*
September	2,125	651	3,334	6,385	183	2,098	2,094	2,747	19,617	*6,632*	*3,209*
October	2,102	563	3,311	6,766	201	2,054	1,638 (e)	2,653	19,288 (e)	*6,510*	*3,280*
November	1,885	532	3,394	6,474	186	1,958	1,788 (e)	2,703	18,920 (e)	*6,907*	*3,689*
December	2,047 (e)	566	3,184	5,239	212	2,367 (e)	1,921 (e)	2,573	18,208 (e)	*7,026*	*3,463* (e)
1974 January		531	3,412	6,981 (e)	178	1,860 (e)	2,252 (e)	2,442		*7,375*	*3,578* (e)
February			3,515 (e)	6,709 (e)		2,162 (e)		2,850		*7,063* (e)	*3,767* (e)
March			3,700 (e)	6,984 (e)				3,025			*3702* (e)
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	−4.3	−4.1	+7.5	+11.9	+1.2	+4.6	+4.7	+4.9	−2.5	*+9.8*	*+7.9*
On a year earlier	+40.7	+40.4	+39.3	+46.9	+36.8	+25.0	+28.3	+21.2	+36.3	*+48.4*	*+30.8*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+3.1	+6.7	+17.7	+15.3	+7.1	+15.1	+14.0	+8.6	+3.7[3]	*+8.4*	*+9.6*
On a year earlier	+25.2	+29.6	+40.7	+29.0	+34.3	+37.3	+12.1	+27.6	+20.5[3]	*+46.6*	*+32.7*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.
Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 4 **Imports (cif)** Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2, 3]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,304	3,216	13,980	20,148	1,176	10,248	9,288	18,960	85,320	*33,108*	*12,984*
1969	9,984	3,804	17,388	24,924	1,416	12,444	10,992	19,956	100,908	*36,048*	*15,024*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,903	4,971	26,665	39,783	2,113	19,284	17,142	27,831	152,692	*55,800*	*23,463*
1973	21,719 (e)	7,447	37,604	54,536	27,55	27,878 (e)		38,836		*69,105*	*38,316*
1972 1st quarter	3,573	1,185	6,354	9,435	495	4,458	4,095	6,848	36,443	*13,455*	*5 400*
2nd quarter	3,630	1,136	6,454	9,997	511	4,610	4,234	6,954	37,526	*13,200*	*5,456*
3rd quarter	3,721	1,301	6,606	9,836	511	4,895	4,233	6,530	37,633	*14,056*	*5,955*
4th quarter	3,979	1,349	7,251	10,515	596	5,321	4,580	7,499	41,090	*15,089*	*6,652*
1973 1st quarter	4,704	1,570	7,922	11,845	618	5,355	5,416	8,275	45,706	*16,173*	*7,355*
2nd quarter	5,241	1,753	9,004	13,168	657	6,700	5,687	9,426	51,636	*16,587*	*9,269*
3rd quarter	5,896	2,026	10,358	14,553	744	7,837	6,717	10,238	58,369	*17,616*	*10,122*
4th quarter	5,878 (e)	2,098	10,319	14,970	735	7,986 (e)		10,895		*18,729*	*11,570*
1974 1st quarter			11,317 (e)	15,224 (e)				12,032			*12,044* (e)
1973 January	1,543	546	2,515	3,704	196	1,675	1,732	2,583	14,494	*5,260*	*2,254*
February	1,555	506	2,649	4,144	207	2,124	1,823	2,685	15,693	*5,512*	*2,445*
March	1,606	518	2,758	3,997	215	1,556	1,861	3,007	15,519	*5,401*	*2,656*
April	1,639	503	2,662	4,031	209	1,906	1,878	2,884	15,712	*5,273*	*2,881*
May	1,791	620	3,102	4,514	214	2,190	1,892	3,253	17,576	*5,580*	*3,093*
June	1,811	630	3,240	4,623	234	2,604	1,917	3,289	18,348	*5,734*	*3,290*
July	1,902	676	3,539	4,844	263	2,393	2,375	3,294	19,286	*5,767*	*3,256*
August	1,967	678	3,383	4,904	246	2,593	2,093	3,468	19,332	*5,956*	*3,587*
September	2,027	672	3,436	4,805	235	2,851	2,249	3,476	19,751	*5,893*	*3,279*
October	2,097	739	3,614	5,403	257	2,599		3,746		*5,863*	*3,621*
November	1,975	737	3,432	5,112	254	2,205		3,625		*6,720*	*3,840*
December	1,806 (e)	622	3,273	4,455	224	3,182 (e)		3,526		*6,146*	*4.109*
1974 January		784	3,510	5,116	233	2,393 (e)		3,497		*6,506* (e)	*3,426* (e)
February			3,823 (e)	4,738 (e)		3,372 (e)		4,101		*7,390* (e)	*4,249* (e)
March			3,984 (e)	5,370 (e)				4,434			*4,369* (e)
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	−0.3	+2.6	+9.6	+1.7	−3.7	+16.9	+18.1	+10.4	+13.0	*+8.6*	*+23.5*
On a year earlier	+47.7	+48.6	+42.9	+28.5	+18.5	+52.4	+58.7	+45.4	+55.1	*+25.8*	*+88.5*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+7.3	+14.2	+20.1	+4.8	+1.9	+28.7	+7.9	+14.4	+6.0[4]	*+8.6*	*+8.1*
On a year earlier	+31.5	+37.2	+44.3	+12.8	+16.4	+67.5	+28.1	+53.3	+32.1	*+25.8*	*+62.6*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] *fob.* [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated. Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 5 **Balance of Payments on Current Account**

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	28	−216	−1,059	2,726	− 57	2,627	65	− 682	3,432	*− 482*	*1,048*
1969	74	−410	−1,798	1,609	−190	2,339	31	1,068	2,723	*−1,036*	*2,119*
1970	715	−544	− 152	731	−185	762	−518	1,661	2,470	*355*	*1,970*
1971	1,004	−422	525	317	205	1,570	−234	2,588	5,143	*−2,893*	*5,797*
1972	1,136	− 65	285	397	−162	1,451	1,051	221	4,314	*−8,689*	*6,623*
1973								−3,569		*3,042*	−18 (e)
1971 1st quarter	163	−184	− 51	282		−105	−173	154		*677*	*434*
2nd quarter	369	−122	135	− 14		147	−163	833		*− 692*	*1,262*
3rd quarter	190	− 23	− 5	−198		1,076	25	900		*−2,291*	*2,100*
4th quarter	282	− 93	446	247		452	77	701		*− 587*	*2,001*
1972 1st quarter	279	− 39	− 324	− 52		607	5	− 73		*−1,853*	*958*
2nd quarter	215	56	445	−125		699	267	476		*−2,473*	*1,212*
3rd quarter	235	− 36	− 3	−485		577	382	355		*−3,331*	*2,084*
4th quarter	407	− 46	167	1,060		−433	397	173		*−1,032*	*2,369*
1973 1st quarter	345	−147	− 191	208		−914	304	− 878		*62*	*482*
2nd quarter	226	−171	426	528		−839	632	− 468		*− 301*	*−402* (e)
3rd quarter	200			863			− 17	− 808		*− 516*	*157*
4th quarter								−1,415		*3,797*	*−255* (e)

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics

TABLE 6 **Export Unit Values of Manufactures**

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Nether-lands[1]		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1968	91	91	96	85	88	96	92	92	95	95	90	90	*91*	*90*	*90*
1969	95	95	97	90	92	93	95	95	97	97	93	93	*95*	*95*	*95*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	101	98	106	106	108	103	106	107	107	103	110	109	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	115	101	116	107	119	104	115	107	117	105	122	117	*105*	*115*	*98*
1973															
1972 1st quarter	113	100	114	105	118	104	114	106	118	106	123	114	*104*	*112*	*96*
2nd quarter	117	103	114	105	118	104	114	106	117	105	125	116	*105*	*115*	*98*
3rd quarter	114	100	116	107	122	107	116	107	117	105	121	118	*104*	*116*	*99*
4th quarter	116	103	118	108	119	104	116	108	118	106	117	119	*106*	*119*	*102*
1973 1st quarter			127	111	128	105	120	111	126	107	122	121	*107*	*125*	*96*
2nd quarter			142	113	141	106	122	116	138	108	131	124	*110*	*138*	*101*
3rd quarter			153	115			132	121	156	113	133	129	*115*		
4th quarter													*119*		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	+1.8	+3.0	+7.7	+1.8	+10 2	+1.0	+8.2	+4.3	+13.0	+4.6	+1.5	+4.0	*+3.5*	*+10.4*	*+5.2*
On a year earlier	+8.4	+4.0	+31.9	+7.5	+19.5	+1.9	+13.8	+13.1	+33.3	+7.6	+9.9	+9.3	*+12.3*	*+20.0*	*+3.1*

(e) estimated. Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin': National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A'
[1] No quarterly series available for 1971.

TABLE 7 **Consumer prices** All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*[2]
1968	92	93	91	89	93	86	93	89	90	*90*	*88*
1969	96	96	94	95	96	92	95	96	94	*94*	*93*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	*104*	*106*
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	*108*	*111*
1973	118	117	124	120	119	132	123	125	128	*114*	*124*
1972 1st quarter	108	108	110	109	109	115	108	113	114	*106*	*108*
2nd quarter	109	109	112	110	110	117	109	115	116	*107*	*111*
3rd quarter	111	111	114	113	112	120	111	116	118	*108*	*111*
4th quarter	113	113	116	115	114	122	114	119	121	*109*	*113*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*116*
2nd quarter	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
3rd quarter	118	117	125	121	120	133	124	126	129	*116*	*126*
4th quarter	121	119	129	124	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*131*
1974 1st quarter	125	123	134	129	125	144		132	139	*122*	*145*
1973 January	115	114	117	115	116		116	121	122	*110*	*114*
February	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*115*
March	116	115	119	116	117		119	122	124	*112*	*118*
April	116	116	120	117	118		120	124	126	*112*	*121*
May	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
June	117	117	123	119	120		123	125	128	*114*	*123*
July	118	117	124	120	120		124	125	128	*114*	*124*
August	118	117	124	121	119	133	124	126	129	*116*	*125*
September	119	118	126	122	120		125	127	130	*117*	*129*
October	120	118	127	123	121		126	128	132	*118*	*129*
November	120	119	129	125	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*130*
December	122	120	131	125	123		129	130	134	*119*	*135*
1974 January	123	121	134	127	124		132	130	137	*120*	*141*
February	125	124	134	129	125	144	134	131	139	*122*	*146*
March	127	124	134	131	125			133	141	*123*	*147*
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+3.6	+3.3	+3.9	+3.7	+2.4	+4.7	+4.2	+2.1	+4.2	*+2.8*	*+10.0*
On a year earlier	+8.5	+7.9	+13.6	+11.3	+7.4	+13.4	+13.1	+8.4	+12.9	*+9.8*	*+24.5*

[1] Excluding rent. [2] Change of basis during period. (e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 8 **Value of retail sales** Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[6]	Netherlands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	83	82	88	82	83	84	80	89	*92*	*80*
1969	90	90	97	90	91	90	89	93	*95*	*89*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	107	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	122	119	110	120	125	125	120	123	*119*	*118*
1973		134	117	129	148			139	*134*	
1972 1st quarter	115	113	106	117	119	119	115	116	*114*	*111*
2nd quarter	121	118	108	118	122	119	119	119	*117*	*114*
3rd quarter	127	122	111	122	126	127	120	125	*120*	*120*
4th quarter	123	122	111	122	132	133	123	130	*125*	*124*
1973 1st quarter	131	128	112	130	141	138	126	135	*132*	*135*
2nd quarter	134	129	116	128	147	142	129	133	*132*	*139*
3rd quarter	137	138	114	128	149	153	132	140	*136*	*147*
4th quarter		142	124	130	152			147	*137*	
1974 1st quarter								148		
1973 January	126	127	112	127	137	128	125	131	*130*	*131*
February	134	128	112	134	145	140	128	135	*132*	*134*
March	133	126	111	128	143	146	125	139	*134*	*139*
April	130	128	111	129	142	140	124	131	*132*	*138*
May	134	127	120	129	148	144	130	132	*133*	*139*
June	137	134	115	127	151	142	130	136	*132*	*141*
July	135	135	114	129	143	143	129	138	*137*	*145*
August	141	137	113	128	158	153	133	139	*135*	*145*
September	140	139	116	128	147	163	131	141	*136*	*151*
October		141	126	132	151	164	135	146	*138*	*153*
November		141	120	129	155			147	*137*	*159*
December		143	124	129	151			149	*135*	*155*
1974 January		142	129					147	*137*	
February								148	*136*	
March								148		
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+2.2	+2.2	+5.1	+1.3	+2.0	+11.9	+2.6	+0.5	*−0.8*	*+5.9*
On a year earlier	+10.1	+14.2	+13.4	+6.3	+15.1	+23.1	+7.3	+9.6	*+5.1*	*+25.2*

[1] Department stores. [2] Department and chainstores. [3] Excluding West Berlin. [4] Average weekly sales. [5] Excluding motor vehicles.
[6] Revised series, including chainstores.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 9 **Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing** Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1, 2]	France[3]	German F.R.[7, †]	Ireland[3]	Italy[6]	Nether-lands[4]	United Kingdom†	*United States*[5]	*Japan*[6] †
1968	84	81	82	79	76	78	82	81	*90*	*73*
1969	92	90	91	87	86	83	90	89	*95*	*85*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	116	116	113	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	127	129	120	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973						156	142	143	*121*	*163*
1971 1st quarter	107	108	104	108	110	109	107	108	*104*	*108*
2nd quarter	110	114	107	109	114	111	110	111	*106*	*111*
3rd quarter	112	117	110	113	118	114	114	112	*106*	*116*
4th quarter	115	121	113	112	122	116	116	115	*108*	*117*
1972 1st quarter	122	123	115	116	127	119	122	121	*111*	*123*
2nd quarter	124	128	118	120	131	121	124	124	*112*	*129*
3rd quarter	129	130	121	122	135	126	128	127	*113*	*131*
4th quarter	132	135	126	126	140	130	129	131	*116*	*138*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	128	130	145	139	137	134	*118*	*145*
2nd quarter	144	147	133	135	157	152	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149		138	137	164	163	146	144	*122*	*160*
4th quarter						169	148	149	*124*	*175*
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+3.5	+7.3	+3.7	+1.5	+4.5	+3.7	+1.4	+3.8	*+1.9*	*+9.1*
On a year earlier	+15.5	+14.8	+13.5	+12.8	+21.5	+30.0	+14.7	+13.4	*+7.2*	*+27.1*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Earnings in industry and construction. [2] Including bonuses. [3] Earnings. [4] Hourly earnings industry: males. [5] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker.
[6] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers. [7] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings.
[8] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked. Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reihe 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and United Kingdom ('Department of Employment Gazette').

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Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office at the Garden City Press Ltd., Letchworth, Herts. SG6 1JS.